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NEWFANGLES

#27, October 1969. Monthly from Don & Maggie Thompson, 8786 Hendricks Road, Mentor, Ohio 44060, at 10¢ a copy, free copies for usable news items. A few back issues (11 15 23-25) are available at 10¢ each. For those of you new to comics fandom (or old to cf who just happen to like this sort of thing), we have How to Survive Comics Fandom at 20¢ a copy. Heading cartoon by Joe Staton. The circulation this issue is: 255. (That is subscribers at this moment, not our printrun.) (Remember NF#8--Mar 1968--when we had to threaten to fold because our circulation was a princely 24 and we thought we must not be filling anyone's need?) (That was the same issue which had a news item that read, "ALTER EGO will be out Real Soon Now, says Roy Thomas, with a long Gil Kane interview.")

apologies to & characters © Walt Disney Prods. & Howard Hughes

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X-MEN DEAD

X-Men will fold around the first of the year. The magazine has been a loser for months and even the improved art and story (Neal Adams and Roy Thomas) did not improve the sales--nor did the improved distribution by Curtis. So it dies. With the folding of X-Men and the about-the-same-time discontinuance of Capt. Savage (we announced the folding of this some time ago, but there was a script backlog to use up), Marvel reportedly has only moneymakers left on its list. Before it folds, X-Men will have two issues by Neal Adams, one each by Don Heck and Sal Buscema, a Denny O'Neil script, and a Japanese mutant.

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We said only a miracle could save JLA, right? Well, we dunno if it qualifies as a miracle, but they've been given two more issues (at least five total will appear). It may survive to keep Black Canary, Atom, Hawkman, and Green Arrow alive. And there's also a rumor that Vigilante is on his way back. Wildcat, furthermore, may come to Earth-I as Black Canary did. Green Lantern gets no reprieve, though. He's a deader.

The Hulk is to marry... Well, Bruce Banner is to wed ~~Betty~~ Betty Ross, with complications via the Leader and the Rhino. Sal Buscema did pencils and inks over Trimpe layouts. # Marvel's first sword & sorcery story to appear will be a Roy Thomas/Barry Smith epic in a weirdbook. It was to have been a Daredevil story, but that idea didn't work out. # Oh, and Bill Dubay has not done any Millie the Model comics. He did samples, but he doesn't live in NYC and he and Marvel haven't worked out the kinks. Who sent us that news item, anyway?

CHANGES OF ADDRESS - HOLD STILL!

Tad Cooper, 8113 Pinelake Court, Alexandria, Virginia 22309
Al Fick, R. D. #5, Amsterdam, New York 12010
Bruce Dickson, Box 425 Cood Tower, Peabody Dorm, 606 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Ashutosh Chowdhurt, 1253 Ramsay View Court, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada
Hank Luttrell, 1108 Locust Street, Columbia, Missouri 65201
Jerry & Jean Bails, 487 Lakewood Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan 48215
Clay Kimball, 1441 Delaware Avenue, Eden, North Carolina 27288
Dennis & Doris Lien, 530 E. Mable Street, Tucson, Arizona 85705
Landon Chesney, Apt. 2, 611 Houston Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37403
Jay Kinney, 215 Willoughby Avenue, Apt. 908, Brooklyn, New York 11205
Wayne Howard, Wesleyan Station, Middletown, Connecticut 06457
G. Richard Buchanan, 527 East 6th Street, Apt. 7, New York, New York What's the ZIP?
Bob Latona, C'an Gelat, Deya, Mallorca, Spain
Kim Weston, 305-B North Chapelgate Lane, Baltimore, Maryland 21229
Gary Brown, 12708 30th Street, Apt. 35 South, Tampa, Florida 33612
Jon Ingersoll, 3 Ames Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
Bill Schelly, Box 52, Snow Hall, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83843
Yance Parrish, 1906 Glendale Avenue, Durham, North Carolina 27701
Leonard Hollmann, 50 South Second Street, Albion, Illinois 62806

Sometime science-fiction writer and most-of-the-time western writer Noel M Loomis died in La Mesa, California, 8 September. He was 64 and allegedly wrote his books directly in type on a linecasting machine. United Press did not elaborate on that --did he then mail several hundred pounds of lead to his publishers? More likely, he pulled proofs and submitted them...

Bud Collyer, radio's Superman from 1938 to 1952 and voice of the TV cartoon Superman, died 8 September in Greenwich, Connecticut. He was 61. Cause of death was given as a circulatory ailment.

Seems another death rumor has been started--this time about Pete Costanza. Spy Dudley Do-Right reports no truth to it at all.

Some kind but anonymous soul sent us the Harvard Alumni Bulletin (75¢ from 1341 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138) for Aug 11, 1969, which contains a very good article on Spider-Man by R. Douglass Peoples. Not patronizing and it's astonishingly accurate--a good analysis of the character.

A new apa for rock music discussion is being formed as of January. 40 copies, $1 dues when needed, 4-page minimum every three months. Write Louis A. Morra, 14 Grove Street, N. Attleboro, Massachusetts 02760.

A BIG BUNCH OF MISCELLANY:::: Bantam is publishing a pocket-sized magazine, Us (FS4850, $1), featuring underground writings. First issue had some (reprint) R. Crumb work and a humorous paragraph on the suicide of George (Superman) Reeves. ## The October Esquire has a cover and some interior illos showing Joe Namath as a super hero. Art is by Marie Severin. ## Mike Nichols, currently directing Catch-22, will next tackle Carnal Knowledge, a comedy by Jules Feiffer. Both are movies; he's postponing stage directing for a while. ## Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower and his National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence have criticized TV cartoons for being intensely violent. Let's see whether anyone knocks the current crop for glorifying high-speed driving... ## An ad for LSD and hash in the SF Good Times (placed by NWW Dope Dealers Local 630) concludes with: "Silver Surfer vs. Flying Dutchman this week from Marvel." Are we really gonna be known by the company we keep? (Thanks, Art Scott.) ## Westinghouse claims its Superbulbs work better, last longer because they contain Krypton. ## Fifteen Peanuts cartoons are now appearing on loaves of Millbrook bread...

FAN NEWS

Paul Leiffer, co-editor with Bob Latona of Vanguard, has been drafted (in June, but we just found out). (News courtesy Bob Latona.) # Everybody (except editor Jerry Weist) jumped us for saying Squa Tront costs 75¢; it costs $2--which is still less than A Certain New York Dealer charges for it. ## Alter Ego has been delayed at least to the end of October. ## Dr. Fredric Wertham has been buying up a flock of fanzines (Nowfanglos and How to Survive Comics Fandom included). Dunno whether he plans to Expose Us To The World or what, but we hear he's under the impression that all fanzine publishers are in their teens. He seems a bit intrigued (shall we say) by some of fandom's terminology--especially the term "crud" (as in "crudzine")... Rob Gluckson reports that Wertham asked him for a copy of His Name Is Savage; Rob sent him a copy and then found that Wertham ran a panel from it in The American Journal of Psychotherapy, July 1969 in an article titled "New Dimensions of Human Violence." Wertham's comment on one of Kane's bloodier panels was that it was from "one of the currently mass-produced publications given me by a child and now in the hands of children far and wide." Rob comments,"That given by a child part, I'm sure, has a great deal of emotional value when read by a parent especially. In this case the child was me." How old are you, Rob? ## Mike Raub has been dropped from the comics apa CAPA-alpha at the same time he is announcing his candidacy for Central Mailer. He was dropped for failure to replace misprinted pages which appeared in the May mailing (half the 60 required copies were botched). Raub was dropped by Central Mailer Fred Patton after Mike failed to have the page redone and to Fred by October 1, five months later. (No, gang, this was not a move by Fred to remove competition for the post; it was a completely legitimate action--which Fred had warned Mike he'd have to take.) ## We've received some inquiries about the St. Louiscon; for more details than we ran in NF#26, we refer you to Locus #37, from Charlie and Marsha Brown, 2078 Anthony Avenue, Bronx, New York 10457--only a few copies are left, at 25¢ each. (Runner-up for Best Novel Hugo was Alexei Panshin's Rite of Passage, for those of you who asked.) # Bob Schoenfeld is readying the new Gosh Wow! and has copies of the St. Louis Program Book (a mammoth publication) for $1--and the 3rd Progress Report for 50¢. (GW is $1.) Bob is at 9516 Minerva, St. Louis, Missouri 63114.

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IMPORTANT NOTICES: Anyone who wishes may reprint news items from NF, but how about giving credit (and our price and address) when you do? And let's have no more columns of NF news headlined "YOU READ IT HERE FIRST Dept," okay? ### Modest people, if--for any reason, such as job security--you do not want us to credit you publicly for NF news items, for Pete's sake, tell us. And if you want to send us an item for our private information but don't want us to print the item, tell us that, too. We are not mindreaders. Don't write and complain because we attribute an item to you--or print a DNQ item--if you did not tell us not to do so. ### If you are one of the kind people ordering from our "for sale" listings, P*L*E*A*S*E enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (NOT a postcard). If you're ordering from us, chances are you like our prices; we are trying to keep them very low. We can't continue to keep prices low if you foul up our order handling by not following directions. ### And did we really have to tell you all this?

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CON NEWS

The 1970 Detroit Triple Fan Fair will be held on Labor Day Weekend, an attempt to attract sf fans who would normally attend the Worldcon but can't make it to Heidelberg. Rick Buckler is chairman. (Rick, incidentally, has drawn a story for one of Dick Giordano's "mystery" titles; Neal Adams has reportedly expressed interest in inking Rick's work.) (Reported by Jerry Bails.) # Multicon 70 (Jun 18-21 in Oklahoma City) will cost $3.50 (to OAF c/o David Smith, 133 Mercer Street, Ponca City, Oklahoma 74601); first 250 to register will get a free Frazetta print--the Conan of Cimmeria cover. Guests Reed Crandall, R. A. Lafferty, & J. Harmon.

Flash Comics will again feature Kid Flash stories and Elongated Man stories. ## Nostalgia Press has out now The Phantom (paperbound $6) by Falk & Moore and soon will have two volumes of Terry and the Pirates ($7.50 each) by Caniff (beginning with the first strip). Upcoming, too, are Krazy Kat ($7.95) by Herriman; Popeye ($5) by E. C. Segar (and don't pass that up; it's far, far better than you think); Mandrake ($6) by Falk & Davis; Minute Movies ($5) by Ed Wheelan; EC Horror Library ($12.50 now to be published in Fall 1970, when it will cost $14.95); Nostalgia Comics ($5 a copy, 6 for $25--sub starting now)--which includes Alex Raymond's Secret Agent X-9. AND--at $35, or $27.50 prepublication price--the first 104 Prince Valiant strips in color. ## Also forthcoming from NP, according to Bill Blackbeard, are a full-color anthology of Little Nemo pages and at least two more Flash Gordon collections, starting from the strip's beginning in 1934 (if negotiations go well). ## That's Nostalgia Press, Box 293, Franklin Square, New York 11010; if you're ordering by mail, add 20¢ per item ordered. ## Marvel sneaked out two more all-reprint books without any warning this month. One is Where Monsters Dwell, containing those gawdawful monster yarns they ran pre-hero and which are every bit as bad as we remember their being. The other is Ringo Kid, a routine Marvel western (which is to say, a bad western) comic, notable only for artwork by the late Joe Maneely and a 4-page gimmick story illustrated by Al Williamson. (By the way, we understand Williamson didn't sign his own name to the story--Stan Lee did later; we also hear that Torres was the penciller for Williamson's inks on it.)

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Here it is October 1969--almost time to vote on 1969 Alleys--and the results of the 1968 Alley balloting are not yet in. Hanerfeld has had his hands full, and fandom must come second in any realistic view of life. But if he'd like it, we hereby make the following Official Offer: We will conduct the 1969 Alley Balloting IF Mark (as the existing Academy Officer) gives his OK on our conducting it. The reason for that "IF" is, of course, that this is an offer of assistance in case he can't/doesn't want to handle the thing--and that competing awards would, in any case, scuttle everything. Our handling would be done on our terms--but it would be held, and results would be published before Fall 1970, we guarantee. ***WHOA! Received just before mimeoing--TCR 74&75 (total cost 30¢ from Mark Hanerfeld, G.P.O. Box 449, Flushing, New York 11352) with buckets of news, Alley Results, and plans for next year's balloting. Send for 'em and vote next year!***

Nov Cavalier has, besides Bodé's Deadbone, an article on Italian crime&violence comics. It's very shallow and doesn't explain the Italian fascination with the letter "K" which appears in nearly all strip names--Diabolik, Sadik, Kriminal. (Reason: The letter is not native to Italian and using it makes the name seem more exotic.) ## Chelsea House is to publish Collected Works of Buck Rogers, ed. by John F. Dille's son--$12.50, to be released in November. Introduction will be by Ray Bradbury and the book should contain several complete stories. (Thanks, Richard O'Brien.) ## Which seems as good a time as any to re-mention an item of which George Orentlicher recently reminded us: Buck Rogers will supposedly be a Cinerama motion picture in 1970 (we say supposedly because we've heard nothing more since the initial announcement which we reported some time back). ## And the original Buck Rogers stories from Amazing will be out any day now--Armageddon 2419 AD by Philip Francis Nowlan, 60¢ from Ace.

George Henderson counted 276 different comic books on sale on Canadian newsstands during August--only 52 of which comics featured superheroes. ## George also reports that comics are being used in Canadian schools to teach reading. It has apparently finally dawned on Canadian educators (but not U.S. ones) that kids learn to read faster if they are given something they like to read instead of the "See Sally run" primers. If Sesame Street (a new pre-school educational TV series mentioned here a couple of months back) makes it using Superman and Batman and so on, we may witness a new dawn of education yet. ## Robin may quit the Teen Titans, but this is not yet definite.

SOME RUNTOGETHER NEWS

The 1969-70 National ZIP Code Directory is ready from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402 (Catalog No. P 1.10/8:969-70) --at a mere $10.50 a copy. Seems to us they could encourage people to use the ZIP Code a bit more if they'd lower their price... ## The Steranko cover on Shield #6 won an Alley, we hear... ## Mike Barrier sent us copies of a Hollywood Reporter article on Disney's evergreen gold mine, the flicks that get re-released every few years (while the dogs go to fill out the TV show). Currently in release are Peter Pan and Darby O'Gill, with 101 Dalmatians due back for Christmas, Sleeping Beauty next summer, Cinderella in '71 or '72, and Mary Poppins returning in '73 or '74. Inventory of the Disney library at last compilation included 497 shorts, 21 animated features, 58 live-action features, 7 true-life adventure features, 330 hours of Mickey Mouse Club, 78 half-hour Zorro shows, and 380 hours of filmed TV shows, primarily Disneyland and Wonderful World of Color. 12 live features and 13 of the cartoons are regarded as among the most valuable theatrical reissue products in the library, but the article did not name them (those already mentioned, plus Bambi, Pinocchio, Snow White, Swiss Family Robinson, and Blackbeard's Ghost, are among them). ## Tony Baltulis points out that we omitted Tales from the Crypt from our listing of Ballantine EC paperbacks in print. And J. P. Chrislip said that Tomorrow Midnight is no longer available. # WCRB, a Boston radio station, is broadcasting the Lone Ranger radio show every Sunday at 8 p.m. ## Jon Carter also notes that the LA Times had an article on old radio (28 Sep) in its West magazine, with two pages of color photos of radio-connected premiums. ## J. C. also says there is a paperback of Morrie Turner's Wee Pals strip. ## How come the dead Nick Fury appeared in a Captain America story? Simple. Lee forgot he was dead. (Even Lee didn't read the Friedrich-Trimpe SHIELD?) Anyway, though our poll indicates that no one wants Fury to survive (most feel he died after Steranko left him), he will return in an issue of The Avengers--a very crowded issue. Also present will be all the Avengers, Captain Marvel, Scorpio, and a 12-member new group called Zodiac. The story had to run to 21 pages to accomodate all that. ## If you like Edmond Hamilton and/or you believe in fair play to authors, do not buy the paperback Captain Future books. The publisher is not paying one dime to Hamilton or any other author for those stories. ## Mike Barrier sends us a strange clipping from the Washington Post News Service. Someone named Nicholas Von Hoffman has discovered the comics and does a piece on how Captain America survived. He says, however: "The costumed fighters of today would fit in with this administration. They're all white, and so are their enemies, with some exceptions, who're purple, green, red, blue--any color but black." Then he quotes from the November Spider-Man, which features a black villain he somehow didn't see, just as he missed the Falcon while reading up on Captain America. None is so blind as he who will not see... ## What's Kelly Freas doing these days? Well, he does a lot of covers and art for Analog (stf), is living in Virginia Beach, and is impressing his kids with his reprinted Mad work in Ridiculously Expensive Mad. ## Reportedly, a lot of Marvel covers are being redone because publisher Martin Goodman doesn't like rayguns or robots or some similar thing in them. ## Marie Severin currently is working mostly on covers, with John Buscema filling in on Sub-Mariner as well as returning to the Avengers. ## After viewing World's Finest Comics #189 ("The Man With Superman's Heart"), we have decided to create a new dubious achievement award, The Mort Weisinger Good Taste Award. Is panel 2, page 6, a sick joke or for real? ## "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" will be rerun at 7:30 (ET) Sunday, Oct 26 on CBS. ## And the new Sears Christmas catalogue devotes almost a full color-photo page to a display of Peanuts merchandise--and 2/3 of another in description of the items. The goods there (not counting tax, handling, and postage) total $97.37. There are other Peanuts items in the catalog, as well, for you die-hard completists for whom $97.37 is not enough to spend. ## Watch for Pogo dolls, which will be available again when the TV show is rerun. They should be included with Downy, Biz, Safeguard, and Spic & Span. Meanwhile, can anyone supply us with dolls of Albert & Hound Dog? And we will be slavishly grateful to anyone who can get us any of the giant Pogo character cutouts some stores used to plug the dolls.

News From Australia

Creepy 27 and Eerie 22 are unfit for Australian consumption. Gary Mason's copies were seized by the Australian customs office, under Regulation 4A of the Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations, which bans works which are blasphemous, indecent or obscene, or unduly emphasize matters of sex, horror, violence, or crime or are likely to encourage depravity. ## That Australian Buck Rogers book noting the moon landing (you remember we mentioned it a while back) has bugged a number of fans Down Under, Gary Mason says. Seems Ibis Imprints, the publisher, camped it up, used "terrible, unrepresentative, neglectful of several artists entirely" selections. The whole camp business is, as Gary notes, four years out of date. The book is (according to GM) a woeful waste of $1.75, and complaints to the publisher were fobbed off with the phrase "fun book." Sales apparently were abominable, indicating some justice in the world. ## We hear that Australian artist Stan Pitt will be doing another story for DC--and one for Gold Key, to boot...

Jerry Scalley sends us a Xerox print of a Marketing article on comics as an ad medium. Seems there's a real scramble for ad space in the comics. A 1-time-full-page ad in 4,500,000 copies of Gold Key's titles costs only $4500. Revell, Inc. lays out about $45,000 yearly for comic book ads. You've no doubt noted the number of ads for adult products, some aimed specifically at servicemen--seems there is a large adult readership of comics still. Or so advertisers seem to think. ## And as long as we're discussing facts and figures-- It's coming up circulation statement time in the comics again, and we'd appreciate your keeping your eye out for circulation statements for us. The figure we want for each comic is Total Paid Circulation for the Average of the Preceeding 12 Month Period. ## More facts and figures-- Bostsellers' Comics Market Issue (May 1969) was filled with happy raves about how great it is that the price on comics is increasing. DC, for example, says, "retailers can anticipate earning more than $3.5 million annually on sales of DC comics...almost $1 million more than was earned at the 12¢ cover price." Charlton advertises, "FASTEST growing line in the industry--SALES up over 28% in 1968." Marvel claims single copy sales of 48 million comics per year--"over 200,000 publications sold per day 365 days of the year." (They're counting the mags published by Magazine Management as well.) Trends seen in "Don't Underestimate the Comics Market" were: Westerns are out. Adults are buying comics. Prepacks will be used where dealers can't afford to handle singles. Sales are in the small newsstand. (All those judgments come from different distributors in different parts of the country.) Though GK raised prices it had an "industry growth sales increase from 8% to 11%." They're repacking returns and redistributing packs.

AN EDITORIAL FROM MAGGIE:

In 1945, Walt Kelly created a character named Dan Little, a Treasury agent in "The Indian Treasure Mystery" in which Our Gang helped round up a counterfeiter. Little did not talk in stilted language; he was capable of subtleties of thought and action. He was a forceful, mature adult without being a superhuman Ideal. Dan Little was an Indian. ## In 1969, the Teen Titans (#24) run into assorted Indians on Medicine Mountain. The Indians either can't master English--or they talk jive talk or throw in "heap big"s with every other sentence. Marvel hasn't presented any Indian (with the outstanding exception of Wyatt Wingfoot, who has been virtually dropped) as a human being. ## Isn't it about time for the rest of the comics field to catch up with 1945?

More Facts and Figures--

With a new distributor (Curtis) handling the comic at the same time that Gil Kane and Roy Thomas made a viable character of him, Captain Marvel sold remarkably well in his first "new" issue. If the second sold as well, he may yet continue in his own book. (We assume you are all hip enough to spot dialogue touches such as "Holy molecules," "This is a job for--CAPTAIN MARVEL," etc. without our pointing them out for you.) ## Superman's sales are not, we hear, as super as they were a few years ago. But the book is hardly in any danger. ## Fred Bassett appears now in 74 publications in 18 countries, as far apart as New Guinea and Finland.

----------Guest Reviews----------

GREG BELL WRITES: Did you read the November Flash? If you ignore the horrible art, bad cover, and you've-got-to-be-kidding DC letter column, it's the first readable Flash in a long time. Kanigher's story reminded me of Fox's Alley-winning "Doorway to the Unknown." Kanigher and Denny O'Neil and occasionally Skeates and Haney turn in the only intelligent scripts DC ever gets. And even they slip--Kanigher's World's Finest, O'Neil's JLA, and Haney's Teen Titans. DC needs a consistently good writer and a lot of editors.

DAN FLEMING COMMENTS ON THE POGO TV SPECIAL: The half-hour was just the opposite of what the comic strip is all about...leaving out everything but Kelly's innocent (?), compassionate, nostalgic, sentimental mood--which is really only 1/10 of what Pogo is all about. Lacking was the sort of matter-of-fact tongue-in-cheekness that we read every day in the strip. Besides that, the special relied too heavily on Kelly's bastardizations of our holiday songs--songs that (really) nobody but the truest blue-eyed fan can get a kick in the ass out of. To the average viewer, these songs must have been like signals to head for the fridge. Also, as is usual for animated features derived from printed forms, the voices were disappointing. I've got almost two dozen of the Pogo soft-covers and several issues of Animal and Pogo comics and love them dearly but the "Special" was a nightmare...you could hear knobs clicking off all across the country.

RICHARD KYLE REVIEWS: The Eye #2--Billy J. White, 1812 Jackson Street, Columbia, Missouri 65201. The Eye #2 is absolutely terrific. "The Origin of The Eye" is a classic comic book yarn, perfectly written and appropriately drawn by the only current creator, amateur or professional, who can completely recapture the best of "The Golden Age" of comics.

-------And Some Thompson Reviews---------

On the Pogo TV Special: Long-time Kelly fans were probably pretty disappointed in this program; I certainly was. There were some surprisingly pleasant things about it (Mam'selle's voice, Hound Dog and P.T.'s voices, occasional capturings of gestures or Kellyesque moments--e.g., Bun Rab's touting of holidays). But it never captured the essences of the depth of Kelly's work. And June Foray did her poorest voice job of those I've heard--on Pogo, of all characters. It was a "dumb" voice, that of an unintelligent Rocky--and its tempo made the entire show drag. It was in Pogo's face, moreover, that the cartoon simplification was done to worst effect, robbing it of the 3-D appeal so richly captured in Kelly's style. If Pogo had been omitted, maybe the program wouldn't have failed so? (On the other hand, we heard children discussing it with enthusiasm days after the broadcast--and my freshman college roommate spoke of it with delight, saying it was the only thing she'd ever liked of Kelly's work. So goes the world.) **Maggie**

What's It All About, Charlie Brown? by Jeffrey Loria (Crest 60¢) is another of those books (like The Gospel according to Peanuts) written by and for pretentious snobs who must justify on intellectual grounds their liking for a (yikh!) comic strip. It also affords them a fast buck by giving them a free ride on Charles Schulz's talent and popular creations. Not recommended--the only good part of the book is the inclusion of strips which are in other Schulz collections. The writing and philosophy are sophomoric and patronizing. It's a bummer. **Don**

Witzend #6 ($1, Box 882, Ansonia Station, New York, New York 10023) contains a never-before-printed EC story by Wally Wood (a redone version of "Spawn of Venus" originally done in 1951 by Al Feldstein) which was done for the third issue of EC'S 3D mags. This is in 2-D, of course. This and an interview with Will Eisner by John Benson are the issue highlights. Lowlight is some heavy-handed propagandizing by Ditko in which he sets up non-existent philosophies and destroys them. Not a great issue. **Don**

Your subscription carries you through # 37 . Then, you're on your own.

WHERE IT WAS AT: How mod are DC's new teen humor comics? Their ad, now running in several comics, gives the answer. Quoth the headline: "Happy! Hilaricus! Hep!"

Bill Boyle says a new Marvel horror book is due this fall: Astonishing Suspense. He also says that Frank Springer is doing a new spy strip for Marvel, as well as art for the romance and horror titles--and that Black Knight is due to have his own book soon. And that Gold Key is going to put out a superhero special featuring The Owl and Tiger Girl (a real blockbuster, that last). ## Upcoming Brave & Bold teamups--Batman will be linked with Black Canary, Wildcat, Adam Strange, and Phantom Stranger. (We understand that the background established for Wildcat in the Spectre story by Mike Friedrich has been ignored.) ## C. C. Beck is doing advertising art for Florida firm Magnuson Corp. (News from Wayne DeWald, of the Magnuson Corp.) ## All in Color for a Dime is still unpublished, but reviews are coming in from critics who saw galley proofs. Someone by the name of Barton Wimble told Library Journal readers that it isn't Jules Feiffer's The Great Comic Book Heroes (which we never claimed it to be). Hell, Wimble, if Don were going to write someone else's book, he'd do From Here to Eternity or Peyton Place; the royalties are better. The Kirkus Reviews for Oct 15 said nice things and was perceptive enough to call Bill Blackbeard's piece on Elzie Segar's Popeye a "delightful section"--but spoiled things by crediting the book to Dick Lupoff and someone named Dan Thompson. ## Next character to be Showcased will be a teen riding around the country on a motorcycle, we understand. It's called either Jason Quest or Jason's Quest or ?/?/?/ ?/?/?/?/?/?/?, but our sources vary. ## Jerry Scalley sends us a clip from the Philadelphia Bulletin about how comics are dead and have been since the mid-'50's. The only comics you can find now are adaptations of TV shows such as Get Smart and Mod Squad (from that giant of the industry, Dell) and underground comix for adults only, the article by Rose de Wolf says. Miss de Wolf does admit that Superman is still around, but acknowledges the existence of no other current comic books. We don't expect anyone to devote their lives to research for a crummy newspaper feature --but a glance at a newsstand would seem to be in order at a bare minimum.

All Giordano's books are doing well, we hear. Schwartz's books are doing not so well. Sekowsky's books--Wonder Woman and Metal Men--seem to be making it, though MM had a close call not long ago. Reportedly, sales on WW slipped badly during her recent return to Paradise Island, so they have her back beating up those vicious hippies. Bleckh. Sekowsky fans will be happy to hear that he is taking over art chores on Phantom Stranger from Neal Adams.

A BUNCH OF NEWS SQUEEZED IN:::: Denny O'Neil, Gil Kane, and Dick Giordano have their heads together over a proposed western comic. ## The Fantastic Four title logo is to be changed. ## Cartoonist Morrie Turner (Wee Pals) has put out a coloring book, Black and White (Troubador Press, $2) with his wife, Letha. The strip's kids and some black history are featured. ## Aquaman is now one of DC's top sellers; since Giordano wanted to keep Deadman and the only place he could fit him in was with Aquaman, Deadman will be a co-feature in Aquaman. And Glenn Merritt will appear in From Beyond the Unknown. ## Don Heck will do some work for DC in House of Secrets. Ray Gaietto, in the U.S. eleven months (from Italy), is to do work for National's teen humor books. ## No agreement has been reached on a movie sale of Conan, says Paul Buxton, who talked with L. Sprague de Camp recently. Also, Conan of Aquilonia, next Lancer book detailing Conan's reign as king of Aquilonia, has yet to be written but should be finished early in 1970. 'Twill be by Lin Carter & de Camp. The Howard scripts, outlines, fragments, &c are exhausted. Consideration is being given to a spin-off series about Prince Conn, son of Conan--but nothing's definite. ## Gary Friedrich is still writing for Marvel, but only for the weirdbooks. (This doesn't thrill us if his story in ToS #3 is a sample. For a one-time teenage journalist, he sure knows nothing about newspapers. Don finds it hard to believe he's ever read a newspaper, much less worked on one, even as a delivery boy. ## NF used to be a single sheet.